

JUNE OF THE YEAR 217,  
ANTIOCHIA



I GUESS  
THE CITY  
WILL BE  
SAFE FOR  
ANOTHER  
YEAR.

IT'S A  
GOOD  
OMEN.

IT LOOKS  
LIKE THE  
STORKS ARE  
NESTING ON  
THE SQUARE  
OF TYCHE  
THIS YEAR  
AS WELL.



THE THIRD SONG:  
THE RIVER OF PLENTY





...ANTI-  
OCHIA.  
THE CITY  
OF GOLD.

WHENEVER  
I COME  
TO THIS CITY  
IT'S ALWAYS  
BURSTING  
WITH LIFE  
AND FULL  
OF ENERGY.

THE KING  
WHO RULES  
THIS CITY  
FROM THE  
SHADOWS  
IS QUITE  
CLEVER...



HIS ARMS  
ARE LONG  
LIKE THORNS.  
HIS EYES ARE  
SHARP LIKE  
AN EAGLE'S.  
HIS HEART  
IS STRONG  
LIKE A BULL'S.

...AND  
LISTENS IN  
SILENCE TO  
THE REPORTS  
OF GOLD.

HE SITS  
ON HIS  
THRONE  
...



AS  
EXPECTED,  
YOU ARE A  
FAST  
TALKER.



HOW-  
EVER,  
LORD  
GANNING,  
...

...JUST  
WHAT  
IS THIS  
"URGENT  
AND  
CONFIDENTIAL  
DISCUSSION"  
ABOUT?



I HAVE  
A RE-  
QUEST.

THE ONE  
I SERVE  
WISHES TO  
MEET WITH  
YOU IN SECRET.  
I WOULD LIKE  
YOU TO AGREE  
TO MEET WITH  
THAT PERSON.

...I  
UNDERSTAND  
HOW MUCH  
POWER AND  
INFLUENCE  
YOU WIELD  
IN THIS CITY  
...

...WOLF.  
POLIO.



WELL, A  
FLOWERY  
GREETING  
IS CHARACTER-  
ISTIC OF THE  
EAST.

IT'S  
CERTAINLY  
PLEASANT  
TO THE  
EARS.



IT WILL  
NOT BE  
A BAD  
PROPOSAL  
FOR EITHER  
PARTY.

...THE REQUEST  
COMES FROM  
LADY JULIA MARSA,  
THE YOUNGEST  
SISTER OF THE  
EMPEROR DOWAGER,  
JULIA DONNA.

THE FAMILY  
OF THE  
DECEASED  
EMPEROR  
WISHES TO  
MEET WITH  
ME IN  
PERSON...  
IS THAT WHAT  
YOU MEANT

SHE IS ON  
A BOAT ON THE  
ORONTES RIVER,  
WHERE YOU WILL  
BE EASILY  
CONCEALED FROM  
THE PRYING  
EYES.

...I SEE.  
THAT  
DOESN'T  
SOUND  
BAD.

HEH  
HEH  
...

LATER ON,  
I WILL  
ACCOMPANY  
YOU THERE...



OH...  
HAS  
THE GIRL  
FALLEN  
FOR YOU  
YET?  
IT'S BEEN  
THREE DAYS  
ALREADY.

NOT  
YET!

NOTHING  
IN PARTI-  
CULAR.  
SO QUICKLY.



SHAMELESS

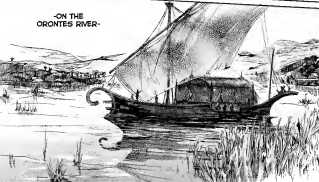
I'M  
GOING  
OUT...



"OH,  
YOU HAVE  
A VISITOR.

SORRY.

DO YOU  
HAVE ANY  
SPECIAL  
INSTRUCTIONS  
FOR ME  
TODAY?





I'M SURE  
YOU'VE  
ALREADY  
HEARD THE  
DIST OF THINGS  
FROM SANNIS...  
BUT I WILL  
TELL YOU  
DIRECTLY.

THANK  
YOU FOR  
AGREEING  
TO THE  
CONFERENCE.

POLIO.



IN ORDER  
TO DEPOSE  
MACRINUS,  
THE COOPERATION  
OF YOU AND THE  
THIRD LEGION ARE  
MORE NECESSARY  
THAN ANYTHING  
ELSE.

WE HAVE  
DEvised  
A PLAN TO  
RETAIN THE  
IMPERIAL  
THRONE.

WE WANT  
YOUR  
SUPPORT.



...WHAT'S  
IN IT FOR  
ME?

-BUT...  
...



MACRILLUS IS STUBBORN  
AND I DOUBT  
WE'LL GET  
ALONG. ...

WE ARE  
PREPARED TO  
COMPENSATE  
YOU.

...BUT I'M  
BATHER  
PLEASED  
WITH MY  
CURRENT  
POSITION.

CROSSING  
SUCH A  
DANGEROUS  
BRIDGE  
WOULD BE  
...



THAT'S NOT  
SOMETHING  
THAT SHOULD  
BE DONE  
CARELESSLY

I DON'T  
LIKE TROUBLE  
VERY MUCH.

IF I  
MOVE THE  
NORMAL  
ARMY. ...

...THAT  
WOULD BE  
ANOTHER  
CIVIL WAR.



IN THE EVENT  
THAT WE ARE  
VICTORIOUS AND  
RETAKE THE  
THRONE, ...

MY FAMILY  
WILL ALSO  
PRESERVE  
YOUR  
"POSITION"...  
SYRUS WILL  
BE LEFT AS  
IT IS.

...YOU  
WILL BE  
GRANTED  
ENOUGH  
GOLD TO  
SATISFY  
EVEN KING  
WEDS.

I'M SURE  
YOU'VE HEARD  
RUMORS OF  
THE WEALTH  
OF THE ROYAL  
HOUSE OF  
BAMBA.





THIS  
IS THE  
GUIDANCE  
OF THE  
GOD BODY,  
EL-SABAL.

HE WILL  
NOT FAIL.

...FOR  
ARGUMENT'S  
SAKE...

...IF YOU ARE  
DESTRUCTED  
IN BATTLE...  
IF YOU FAIL...  
WHAT DO YOU  
INTEND TO DO?



...YES.

EVEN IN  
ANTIOCHIA,  
A GROUP OF  
MONOTHEISTS  
CALLED THE  
"RELIGION  
OF THE FIGHT"  
HAVE BEEN  
GROWING IN  
POWER IN  
RECENT  
YEARS.



OH,  
THAT'S RIGHT,  
YOU WORSHIP  
GOL AS THE  
"ONE AND  
ONLY GOD",  
DON'T YOU?



...AS IF  
HE IS HERE  
OF THE  
SAME RANK  
AS THOSE  
OTHERS.

BE  
CAUTIOUS  
OF YOUR  
WORDS.

DO NOT  
SPEAK  
OF OUR  
GOD...

\*CHRISTIANITY

...HOWEVER,  
A ROMAN LIKE  
ME CAN'T  
AGREE WITH  
SOMETHING  
LIKE THAT.

I'M SORRY,  
BUT I DON'T  
REALLY  
UNDERSTAND  
ANYONE WHO  
REVERES A  
GOD AS THE  
"ONE AND  
ONLY"...



I SEE.

YOUR  
WORDS ARE  
CERTAINLY  
HEARTFELT.

~I WOULD  
LIKE TWO  
OR THREE  
NIGHTS TO  
CONSIDER...

HOWEVER,  
THIS IS  
TOO BIG  
A MATTER  
FOR ME TO  
MAKE AN  
IMMEDIATE  
DECISION.



DO NOT  
LOOK AT  
ME AS IF  
I AM SOME  
SORT OF  
CURIOUSITY  
POLIO.

I LIVED  
FOR A LONG  
TIME IN ROME  
AS WELL.

I UNDER-  
STAND  
THAT EVERY  
PEOPLE  
HAVE THEIR  
OWN WAY  
OF WOR-  
SHIPPING  
GOD.

OUR PLAN  
HAS REASONABLE  
PROSPECTS  
FOR SUCCESS.  
WE'RE NOT  
JUST RUSHING  
IN BLINDLY.

PLEASE  
UNDERSTAND  
THAT...

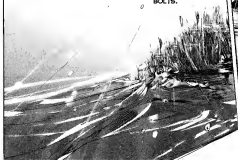


JUPITER,  
THE HIGHEST  
GOOD...




THOSE  
GREAT SNAKES,  
FALLING TO EARTH,  
PIERCED MOTHER  
GAIA AND CREATED  
THE ORONTES.

...CELEBRATED  
THE VICTORY  
OF THE GODS  
AND THE FALL  
OF TYPHON WITH  
HIS LIGHTNING  
BOLTS.





THE PLANTS  
ALONG THE RIVERBANKS  
GREW GREEN AND TALL  
FROM THE CLEAR WATER.



THE FISH SWIMMING  
IN THE RIVER GREW LARGE  
AND PLUMP ON THEIR BOUNTY.



YOU ARE  
THEIR SONS  
AND THEIR  
DAUGHTERS,  
THEIR FATHERS  
AND THEIR  
MOTHERS.

OH ORONTES,  
HUMANS GATHER  
TO DO YOU  
REVERENCE.

AND THE  
PEOPLE IN  
THEIR BOATS  
DRIFTING ON  
THE RIVER'S  
SURFACE PASSED  
THEIR LIVES AWAY  
ON ITS FLOW.



I WENT  
OUT TO  
BUY  
WHAT WE  
NEEDED...

...AND I  
ENDED UP  
WAND-  
ERING  
AROUND  
TOWN...



WHAT  
ARE  
YOU  
DOING?

DON'T  
YOU  
KNOW  
WE'VE  
BEEN  
LOOKING  
FOR  
YOU?

AH...

HASHTER  
GELLISH!



-ALSOBT!  
SO THIS IS  
WHERE YOU'VE  
BEEN!



THERE  
WERE SO  
MANY  
DIFFERENT  
THINGS.  
IT WAS  
DIFFICULT  
TO  
CHOOSE.

EPHESUS IS  
A BIG CITY TOO,  
BUT ANTIOCHIA  
IS INCREDIBLE.



I GUESS  
THE  
PROVINCIAL  
CAPTOL  
REALLY IS  
DIFFERENT...



PLEASE  
GIVE IT  
BACK!

"THE  
GIRL HAS  
EXPOSED  
HER POOR  
TASTE!"  
THAT'S  
WHAT  
THEY'LL  
SAY.

YOU'LL  
BE  
MOCKED.



"THE  
LOVE  
POEMS  
OF BI-  
LITES".

I GOT  
CAUGHT  
UP IN  
READING  
IT...  
S-S-  
SORRY...

I FOUND  
IT AND  
BOUGHT  
IT JUST  
NOW.



I GUESS  
THAT SHOWS  
WHAT A  
SLURPHEE  
YOU ARE.  
HONESTLY  
...

WHAT  
ARE YOU  
READ-  
ING?  
LET ME  
SEE.

AC

WAIT  
A...



...TO  
THE  
TEMPLE  
OF  
TYCHE.

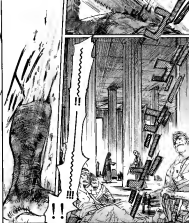
LET'S  
HURRY...





YOUR  
ARMY  
DOCTOR  
MUST BE  
A REAL  
BUNGLER.

LETTING IT  
GET THIS BAD  
WITHOUT DOING  
ANYTHING IS  
UNBELIEVABLE  
FOR MODERN  
MEDICAL CARE.



FLAT-IRON!



...PUSH...



I DIDN'T  
COME ALL  
THE WAY TO  
THIS CITY  
JUST TO DO  
THE TEMPLE'S  
CARPENTER  
CHARITY WORK.

HAS  
LADY  
GAL-  
ENA  
DONE  
SOME-  
THING  
AGAIN?!

IT  
SEEMS  
LIKE  
THERE'S  
A BIG  
CON-  
FUSION  
HERE.

UW  
AA  
AH  
HH  
H!!!

LADY  
SALENA

GYA-  
AAH-  
HHH,  
WHAT  
THE  
HELL  
ARE  
YOU  
DOING  
!?!?

L-LADY  
SALENAAAA!  
Y-YOU'RE  
COVERED  
IN BLOOD!

GY  
AA  
AH  
HH  
!!

ALSOPE.  
HELL,  
AREN'T  
YOU LATE.

YOU  
UNDER-  
STAND  
THAT,  
DON'T  
YOU?

EH-  
WHAT...?  
PLEASE  
DON'T  
STARTLE  
ME LIKE  
THAT...

IT'S NOT  
MY BLOOD.

A  
DERANGED  
PATIENT  
KNOCKED  
OVER A  
POT FULL OF  
HORSE  
BLOOD.





NOTE: GALEN, OR CLAUDIUS GALENUS (129-200 A.D.), OF PERGAMON WAS A FAMOUS ROMAN DOCTOR. GALENUS OFFERED TO BE HIS SUBSCRIBER!!



IT'S PERFECTLY FINE TO  
PROCLAIM YOUR  
INTENTIONS...  
BUT IS THAT  
REALLY  
SOMETHING  
YOU SHOULD  
BE SAYING IN  
A PLACE LIKE  
THIS...?

GALENA'S  
COWORKER,  
SELENUS  
MAXIMUS.

GALENA







YES!  
IT'S MAGNIFICENT.

YES!

...IT'S MOSTLY  
MY SKILL,  
ISN'T IT?

WELL,  
...

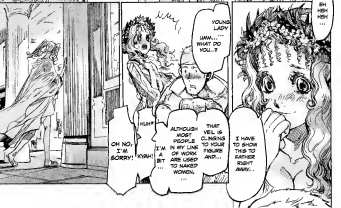
"AMAZ-  
ING."

YOU'RE  
STILL  
MAKING IT  
WITHOUT  
LOOKING  
AT US.

I'M  
FINE-TUNING  
IT IN CLAY  
BEFORE  
I MAKE  
THE MOLD.

WOW.

THIS  
ORDER  
IS FOR  
CAST  
METAL,  
NOT A  
STONE  
STATUE.  
...



SH-  
ASH-  
HEH!  
...

YOUNG  
LADY

UHM...  
WHAT DO  
YOU...?

OH NO,  
I'M  
SORRY!

KUH!

I'M A  
BIT  
...

ALTHOUGH  
MOST  
PEOPLE  
IN MY LINE  
OF WORK  
ARE USED  
TO NAKED  
WOMEN.  
...

THAT  
VEL IS  
CLINGING  
TO YOUR  
FIGURE  
AND...

I HAVE  
TO SHOW  
THIS TO  
FATHER  
RIGHT  
AWAY...



YOU CAN  
DO AND  
CHANGE  
YOUR  
CLOTHES.

RIGHT



IT  
WOULD  
BE HARD  
FOR YOU  
TALK WITH  
HIM LIKE  
THAT,  
WOULDN'T  
IT?

I'LL  
DO THAT



AM...



COME TO  
THE ATRIUM  
AND TAKE  
A LOOK.

YOU WANT  
ME TO GO  
WITH YOU  
NOW?

YES...

MR.  
ISOCRAATES  
IS AWAITING.



SORRY  
FATHER.

I KNOW  
YOU HAVE  
VERY  
IMPORTANT  
BUSINESS  
RIGHT NOW.



AM...

FATHER!



I ALMOST  
THOUGHT  
YOU WERE  
VENUS,  
JUST BORN  
OUT OF  
THE OCEAN.

YOU  
LOOK  
FANT-  
ASTIC!



-OH,  
VENUS.

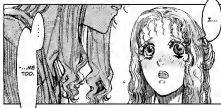


I'VE COME  
IN CONTACT  
WITH A LOT  
OF ROUGH  
PEOPLE  
BECAUSE OF  
MY FATHER'S  
BUSINESS,  
SO...

...I'M  
CONFIDENT  
IN MY ABILITY  
TO RESOLVE  
MEN.

MY MOTHER  
DIED WHEN  
I WAS  
VERY YOUNG,  
SO I WAS  
RAISED BY A  
LOVE  
HANDSERVANT.

LOOK  
AT ME,  
ACTING  
LIKE THIS.



...AND  
TODD.

I...



...PASSED  
AWAY WHEN  
I WAS AN  
INFANT AS  
WELL...

...  
MY  
MOTH-  
ER...



OH?



...  
BUT,  
...

...THIS IS  
THE FIRST  
TIME I'VE  
MET A  
PERSON  
AS LOVELY  
AS YOU...







THE  
SOLAR  
EYES





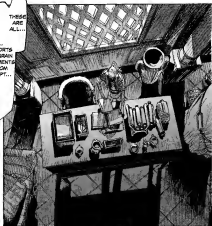


THESE  
ARE  
ALL...

...  
REPORTS  
ON GRAIN  
SHIPMENTS  
FROM  
EGYPT...

IT  
DOESN'T  
LOOK LIKE  
THERE'S  
ANYTHING  
UNUSUAL  
...

...WHAT'S  
THIS  
DOCUMENT  
...?



IT'S  
A GREAT  
BELONGING  
TO THE  
IMPERIAL  
FAMILY  
IN OTHER  
WORDS...

A  
SCORPION  
WITH  
A STAR  
AND  
MOON.

AND THE  
DATE IS...  
FROM BEFORE  
THE CHANGE  
IN EMPEROR...

VIENNA  
IS TRADING  
VALUABLE  
GOODS  
DIRECTLY  
WITH ROM, WITHOUT  
GOING  
THROUGH  
CHABLE.



WHAT  
IS THAT?

...WHAT'S  
THIS REALLY...?

SILK,  
PURPLE DYE,  
RUBIES...  
THIS RECEIPT  
IS FOR AN  
INCREDIBLE  
AMOUNT  
OF MONEY



I'LL GO  
A LITTLE  
CLOSER  
TO THE  
WINDOW  
...

I CAN'T  
SEE IT  
VERY WELL  
IN THE  
DARK.







I'LL  
MAKE MY  
ESCAPE  
THROUGH  
THE BACK  
DOOR  
IN THE  
KITCHENS  
...



!?



HEY!

WAIT  
!!  
YOU  
THERE  
!!





...VIDI-  
VINA  
...!!











THE  
THIEF  
WENT  
THIS  
WAY!

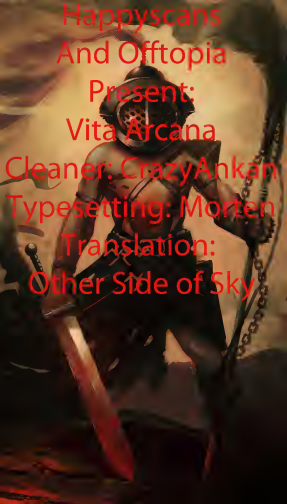


YOU  
BAST-  
ARD!

WHAT  
ARE  
YOU  
DOING  
...?!

THE END OF  
THE THIRD SONG





Happyscans  
And Offtopia  
Present:

Vita Arcana

Cleaner: CrazyAnkan

Typesetting: Morten

Translation:

Other Side of Sky